

## Memorandum

To: Housing Committee, State of Connecticut General Assembly, 2022  
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From: Town of Greenwich Energy Management Advisory Committee  
Date: 3/10/2022  
Subject: Passage of S.B. No. 292 and S.B. No. 295

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Please accept our written testimony in support of passage of:

S.B. No. 292 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HEATING EFFICIENCY IN NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION  
S.B. No. 295 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TAX CREDITS FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOMES

Background: In 2021, the Town of Greenwich Board of Selectmen established an [Energy Management Advisory Committee \(EMAC\)](#). EMAC's purpose is to advise the Selectmen on ways to improve energy efficiency and expand the use of renewables, to save more and pollute less. Our committee, in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning Commission, and other relevant entities, are pursuing a range of initiatives, including new standards and incentives aimed at the promotion of energy efficiency in new residential and commercial construction and major renovations. Passage of S.B. 292 would be transformative for our efforts, and over the medium to long-term result in reduced energy consumption, reduced emissions, and increased resilience, something that Connecticut will need to work hard to promote in an era of increasingly strong storms and other climate change related impacts. Passage of S.B. 295 would complement the impact of S.B. 292 by encouraging the consideration of energy efficient building designs and help offset the current small premiums associated with selecting high performance building technologies such as high efficiency thermal envelopes, glazing, hybrid electric hot water heaters, and air source heat pump systems.

CT residents, including Greenwich residents, are already feeling the pain of our changing climate. Help us build a just and prosperous future with strong baseline building and efficiency codes and sufficient stretch options. We wholeheartedly support alternative compliance pathways such as LEED 4.1 with a requirement for achieving a majority of the energy efficiency related measures and would ask that the bill be amended to include Passive House certification as an important and commonly used energy efficient building standard, especially for multi-family affordable housing projects, and also the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program. Consideration of these pathways would be enhanced by the tax credits that will be available through the passage of S.B. 295.

We also urge you to support the work that the Codes and Standards Committee is doing to approve adoption of IECC 2021 as part of the revised 2022 Building Code for Connecticut, including amending the code to include alternative pathways (stretch codes) such as Passive House and those considered in S.B. 292.

Sincerely,



Peter Schweinfurth  
Chair, Energy Management Advisory Committee  
Town of Greenwich